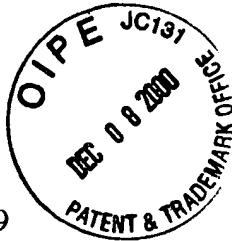


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Boris Klots, et al.

Serial No.: 09/298,603

Filing Date: April 23, 1999



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) Examiner: NYA
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) Group Art Unit: 2776

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The references were cited during the prosecution of a related foreign application and a copy of the International Search Report mailed November 8, 2000, is also attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

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Date: December 5, 2000

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231:

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